What is claimed is:

1. A light emitting device, comprising:

a light emitting element; and

a phosphor layer that is composed of phosphor glass to generate fluorescence while being excited by light emitted from the light emitting element;

wherein the light emitting element emits ultraviolet light, and the phosphor glass generates visible fluorescence while being excited by the ultraviolet light.

2. The light emitting device according to claim 1, wherein:

the phosphor glass contains, as glass component, at least one of Tb^{3-} (terbium), Eu^{2+} (divalent europium) and Eu^{3-} (trivalent europium).

3. The light emitting device according to claim 1, wherein:

the phosphor layer is composed of a plurality of layers that are of different kinds of the phosphor glasses.

4. The light emitting device according to claim 1, wherein:

the phosphor glass is particle-shaped, and the phosphor layer is composed of a transparent material and the particle-shaped phosphor glass that is dispersed in the transparent material.

5. The light emitting device according to claim 4, wherein:

the particle-shaped phosphor glass is composed of different kinds of the particle-shaped phosphor glasses.

6. The light emitting device according to claim 4, wherein:

the phosphor layer is further composed of a phosphor material other than the phosphor glass, the phosphor material being dispersed in the transparent material.

7. The light emitting device according to claim 4, wherein:

the transparent material is low-melting glass or synthetic resin.

8. A light emitting device, comprising:

a light emitting element;

an optical system that converges light emitted from the light emitting element;

wherein the optical system is composed of phosphor glass.